

## The Knoxville Independent

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"No men living are more worthy to be trusted than those who toil up from poverty, none less inclined to take or touch aught which they have not honestly earned."—Abraham Lincoln.

UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA.  
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Graysville, Tenn.P. P. Lynch ..... Vice President  
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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE FOR  
TENNESSEE  
T. J. Smith ..... Graysville, Tenn.DELEGATE TO KENTUCKY FED-  
ERATION OF LABOR  
John Jeffrey ..... Pittsburg, Ky.LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE FOR  
KENTUCKY  
John McIlquhan ..... Pittsburg, Ky.

## LABOR DURING WAR.

Must Play Its Part Manfully and Ob-  
serve Its Contracts.

A call to laboring men to "play our part in the war manfully" with "unshinited loyalty to these United States" has been issued by John P. White, international president of the United Mine Workers of America.

"The government is demanding co-operation—organized effort between employer and employee—to meet the country's war requirements," Mr. White said. "The eyes of the world are focused to see how quickly and efficiently the government's demands will be met."

"The proud boast of every trade unionist should be unstinted loyalty to these United States of America. Observance of contracts should be the aim of every member as well as every union official. We must play our part in the war manfully and well. Every legitimate endeavor should be exercised before a tieup in any trade results."

"We must keep pace with time. Go forward, not backward. Ungrudgingly give the best that is in us, if we are to expect the best in return. Conditions are being transformed overnight; we must meet these new demands, safely and sanely."

"No matter how difficult it may seem or exacting the task, labor must strive to preserve intact during the war the principles of collective bargaining. When the curtain falls on history, when the sound of shot and shell shall be heard no more, and reconstruction begins to rehabilitate the shattered areas of the world to a normal state, let it be said of organized labor that every measure of industrial democracy enjoyed when we started out to make the world safe for democracy has been maintained."

"There is no sound reason for pessimism in the ranks of labor if we are awake to opportunities. The fearful and hesitant will find comfort in giving their unbounded loyal support. So let us cement our hopes out of mutual interest and hope for worldwide uplift—worldwide peace the expressed aim of the war."

## United Mine Workers.

Two thousand six hundred and twenty-one local unions are affiliated to the international, and the combined membership is 282,102.

TRADE UNIONS  
AND PROSPERITYHigher Wages For Workers  
Mean an Increase in Industry.

## DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH

The More Money in the Hands of the  
Mass of the People the Greater Will  
Be the Demand For Products—Or-  
ganized Labor Has Done Much to  
Speed the Progress of Civilization.It's a late day to be arguing about  
the good the labor unions have done  
for the American commonwealth.If our civilization has merit it is be-  
cause it is bringing to the many the  
advantages that once belonged only to  
a few.A state is neither civilized nor pros-  
perous when all the wealth and ma-  
terial comforts belong to a small aris-  
tocracy, while the mass of the people  
are prostrate in poverty. As civiliza-  
tion advances the possessions of the  
common man increase. As these in-  
crease the state becomes stronger.Neither gold nor coal is of value un-  
less it can be used.The problem of civilization has been  
to provide avenues through which  
wealth can change hands, in buying  
and selling, and through which the re-  
sources of the earth can be made of  
service to mankind.Before a sale can be made there must  
be a buyer. Before a man can become  
a buyer he must have the money with  
which to buy.Unless he has this money the coal  
and iron must remain unmined, the cot-  
ton and silks unwoven into cloth be-  
cause there is no demand for them.So the manufacturers of goods and  
the sellers of goods are confronted  
with the necessity of placing more  
money in the hands of the common  
man, who is the buyer, in order that  
they themselves may prosper.As a part of civilization they have  
been working blindly, often unwilling-  
ly and with many blunders, at the task  
of providing more buyers in the world.  
But while this slow process has been  
in motion a new great force has made  
itself felt.This is the demand of the common  
man himself for the means to buy the  
products of the manufacturer and the  
goods of the retailer in order that he  
and his family may live in comfort.The worker came to realize that he  
himself had a thing of value to sell—  
a thing of such value that the coal and  
iron in the earth, the silk in the cocoon,  
the cotton in the boll, were worthless  
without it. This thing of value was  
his labor.So the workers joined together in  
unions and bartered their labor as the  
merchant bartered his goods. Labor,  
before that, had been the only thing  
in the world on which the buyer al-  
ways fixed the price. The shoe mer-  
chant named the price at which his  
shoes should sell, the steel manufac-  
turer named the price at which his  
rails should sell, but the worker, offer-  
ing his labor in the market, always  
had to take the price the buyer named.With the coming of the unions, labor  
began to find its place with other com-  
modities of value in the world, and the  
workers were able to bargain over the  
price at which it should be sold, just  
as the retailer bargains with the manu-  
facturer, and the manufacturer with  
the producer of raw material.The result of this was that labor  
brought a higher price. The workers  
had more money to spend.Higher wages for the worker meant  
that hundreds of thousands of yards  
of woollens and millions of pounds of  
manufactured foods and countless tons  
of building materials were being sold  
for which there was no demand until  
the worker got the money to buy them.This meant an increase in industry  
throughout the land. When a few are  
rich and the rest of mankind is near  
starvation the manufacturer and the  
retailer are in a hard way because the  
amount of their product that a few  
can use is very limited. When a vast  
number of men and women are able  
to buy comforts and luxuries then de-  
mand is high and prosperity reigns.In the organization of our social and  
industrial system the producer of raw  
material—the miner and the grower of  
crops, the manufacturer, the whole-  
saler, the retailer and the buyer are  
welded firmly together in a mighty  
chain of trade.A chain is just as strong as its weak-  
est link and no stronger. The strength-  
ening of the weaker links means the  
strengthening of the whole chain.It is in strengthening these weaker  
links that the labor unions have  
brought material benefit not only to  
the worker, but to the manufacturer  
and merchant and miner, whose prod-  
uct the worker buys.As the worker increases in prosperity  
the whole nation increases in prosper-  
ity because the wealth of the land  
which otherwise would lie idle be-  
cause of lack of demand is brought  
into usefulness.Just so far as the labor unions suc-  
ceed in raising the level of all work-  
ers the level of welfare of all industry  
will be raised.The more wealth that is in the hands  
of the mass of the people the greater  
will be the demand for the products  
of the earth, and the less wheat and  
corn and iron and coal and wood will  
be unused and unsold in our land.—  
San Francisco Daily News.

We do job printing at our prices

LABOR UNIONS TO  
END MILITARISMWorkers of United States and  
South America in Movement.

## PLAN A GREAT CONGRESS

American Federation of Labor Not Al-  
lied With Peace Propagandists, but  
Is Warmly Supporting Preparedness  
in Defense of Nation—Idea of Move-  
ment Is Pan-American Federation.Committed to a program of prepared-  
ness for the defense of the United  
States, the American Federation of La-  
bor has embarked upon a movement to  
band the working men of the western  
hemisphere into a pan-American federa-  
tion to resist in their respective coun-  
tries a dominance of militarism.Indorsement of the project has been  
obtained from all of the Latin Ameri-  
can countries, and correspondence is  
now being carried on with these na-  
tions by a conference committee located  
in Washington looking to the holding  
in Washington in the near future of a  
great congress, at which every country  
in the Americas would be represented  
and a permanent organization would  
be effected.The proposed federation will have as  
its nucleus the 3,000,000 organized la-  
borers of the United States and the  
more than 1,000,000 enrolled in the fed-  
erations of the Latin American coun-  
tries.While the federation now contemplat-  
ed would include only organized labor  
in North, South and Central America  
and the islands of the West Indies, this  
move is the first step toward a  
world federation that would embrace  
all nations and strive for common  
aims. This truly international develop-  
ment must wait, however, for the  
restoration of peace in Europe.Resistance to military dominance of  
any one of the pan-American countries  
over any other is the primary purpose  
of the proposed federation. It has  
other aims, however, that look to pro-  
motion of material benefits under a  
policy of peace.Through its efforts its promoters  
foresee not only an establishment of  
fraternal relations between the several  
countries included, but a stimulation  
of commerce and the establishment of  
closer trade relations generally.The conference or provisional com-  
mittee which is now established in the  
American Federation of Labor building,  
Washington, is composed of Samuel  
Gompers, president of the American  
Federation of Labor, chairman; John  
Murray of California, secretary; and  
Santiago Iglesias, representing the or-  
ganized workers of Porto Rico, and  
Carlos Lovelira, representing the or-  
ganized workers of Yucatan, Mexico.In launching this movement the  
American Federation of Labor was not  
allying itself with peace propagandists  
and anti-preparedness elements in the  
United States. Reminded that the  
declarations against militarism might  
leave this impression, Mr. Gompers said:"Any inference drawn from the man-  
ifesto which we have issued setting  
forth our plan that we are against pre-  
paredness for defense is unwarranted.  
I am a member of the advisory com-  
mission of the council of national de-  
fense and spent every day of a recent  
week in conference with that council.""We are taking every action for pre-  
paredness in defense of the rights and  
interests of the people and the nation.""We hope by our organization of the  
Pan-American Federation of Labor to  
prevent the exercise of military domi-  
nation of any one of the pan-American  
countries over another. We hope to  
give the peoples of each of the Latin  
American countries the opportunity of  
working out their own problems and  
developments so that the Latin Ameri-  
can republics may co-operate for the  
common defense and have opportunity  
of attainment of the highest ideals of  
all our peoples."Carlos Lovelira and Baltasar Pages,  
Mexican representatives of labor, have  
toured all of the Latin American coun-  
tries in the interest of the proposed  
federation, and Mr. Lovelira said that  
absolute assurances of co-operation had  
been obtained from the heads of or-  
ganized labor in each country visited.One of the principal benefits which  
will inure to the United States through  
the establishment of the federation,  
Mr. Lovelira believes, will be the erad-  
ication of the impression held by many  
Latin Americans, particularly the  
masses, that the people of the United  
States are obsessed with commercial-  
ism and "dollar chasing." This impres-  
sion, he added, has militated strongly  
against a permanent trade development  
with the Latin Americans. A closer  
relationship, he declares, is necessary  
to promote trade between the United  
States and her sister republics.

## TRADE UNIONISM.

Trade unionism has been the  
great revolutionizing force that  
has secured opportunities for  
better lives and work for those  
who work.The unions are the schools of  
the workers where they learned  
the lessons of democracy and in-  
dependence.May all of America's workers  
take advantage of the opportuni-  
ties of 1917 to organize the yet  
unorganized and to strengthen  
the unions of those who are on  
the battle line for labor.FROM ALL PARTS  
OF TENNESSEEReports of Interesting  
Events Boiled Down  
for Hasty Perusal.Dyersburg.—Bob Hatch, a negro  
bootlegger, was killed here while at-  
tempting to evade arrest.Shelbyville.—Elder John T. Smith,  
of Sparta, is conducting a revival  
meeting at the Christian church in  
this city.Lynchburg.—William A. Gore, one  
of Moore county's wide-awake farm-  
ers of the Second district, sold 49 hogs  
for \$1,515.Gleason.—The second contingent of  
Weakley county's army quota, recent-  
ly selected, were honored with a rally  
and barbecue at Dresden.Ripley.—Charles McNeil, farmer, is  
in jail here, charged with the killing  
of Charles Cannon, planter, and the  
shooting of his 15-year-old son.Murfreesboro.—The Central high  
school of this city opened with an  
extra large attendance. On the open-  
ing days there were 171 present.Jackson.—The Jackson Trades and  
Labor Council adopted unanimously  
a resolution favoring the location of  
the military camp in Madison county.Memphis.—J. J. Losler, former post-  
master at Jackson, and well known in  
state political circles, died at his home  
here, following an illness of a few  
hours from paralysis.Murfreesboro.—Tennessee college  
opened the school year here with an  
unusually large attendance, the school  
having enrolled more students on the  
first day than during any entire year  
of its existence except that of last  
year.Knoxville.—Through the discovery  
of two mountains of chert in Knox  
county, the use of which has been of-  
fered to the road commission, Super-  
intendent of Pike Roads John Doug-  
lass estimates that he will save the  
county more than \$50,000 annually.Bolivar.—A. M. Kahn and T. A. Par-  
ran met with a serious accident while  
returning from Jackson in an auto-  
mobile. While crossing the levee just  
north of Bolivar the lights of the car  
went dead, and in the darkness the  
machine plunged down a 30-foot em-  
bankment.Union City.—Valuable walnut logs  
from the bottom of Reelfoot Lake,  
where they have lain since the great  
earthquake which felled them and  
formed the lake in 1812, have been  
shipped to an eastern factory for the  
construction of airplanes and hydro-  
airplanes is a report from the lake  
territory.Dyersburg.—Two thousand citizens  
were at the train to see the Dyer  
county selective draft soldiers enroute  
for camp. The boys met at the court-  
house and marched to the train in a  
body, headed by the B. M. C. band.  
They were given an ovation on leav-  
ing. Forty-two men were in the party.Knoxville.—The Southern Railway  
employees say that the increase to be  
granted on salaries of clerks Oct. 1  
will amount to 10 or 12 per cent. One  
hundred and sixty-five men will be af-  
fected on the Knoxville division, it is  
stated.Halls.—A mother's love failed to im-  
press her son to the point of pushing  
his claim for exemption from the United  
States army. He wrote to the fed-  
eral appeal board, insisting that he is  
big, strong and healthy, and that he  
wants to go to war. "My mother is  
having an exemption claim fixed up in  
an appeal which she will send you. I  
ask the board to pass my case and re-  
fuse to allow these claims. My moth-  
er is not dependent on me. I believe  
every honest American who can ought  
to go out in defense of his country."Alamo.—The Macabees of Tennes-  
see will hold a state convention in the  
city of Dyersburg on Tuesday, Nov.  
6. There are a large number of tents  
and each tent will have a representa-  
tive to this convention.Obion.—B. A. Harris and Lloyd Pee-  
ler of Dexter, Ky., were instantly kill-  
ed when an automobile in which they  
were riding was struck by an I. C.  
passenger train at a crossing about  
half a mile north of Obion. Part of  
the car was hurled into an adjoining  
field.

## UNITY OF LABOR.

Unity of labor means that ev-  
ery organized worker shall be  
engaged in one common union  
movement, because, whether or-  
ganized by trades or industries,  
a question entirely subordinate  
to the fundamental necessity of  
unity, there should be no divi-  
sion of labor's ranks.There should be only one la-  
bor movement in a nation, and  
in the United States and Canada  
that movement is the American  
Federation of Labor, and in ev-  
ery trade or industry that move-  
ment is the union affiliated with  
the American Federation of La-  
bor.

## The Making of the Flag

by Wilbur D. Nesbitt  
Author of  
"Your Flag and My Flag"

How did we make the flag?

By rule?

By compass, and square, and line?  
With pattern, and thread, and the sempster's tool,  
To follow the plain design?Was it only the lore that the draftsmen knew  
That gave us the red, and the white, and blue?

How did we make the flag?

Not all

By measuring stitch and seam,  
For part of it came from a country call  
And part of it is a dream—  
Is a vision that led brave souls aright,  
And gave us the red, and the blue, and white.

How did we make the flag?

In peace

We fashioned it fold on fold,  
In war it was blend with the grim caprice  
The drums in their summons rolled.  
'Twas the courage alike of the quick and dead  
That gave us the blue, and the white, and red.

How did we make the flag?

'Twas thus

It came to its grace and worth,  
Through all that is good in the souls of us  
The banner has had its birth;  
'Twas the holier strength of the purpose true  
That gave us the red, and the white, and blue.

Thus have we made the flag?

Ah, no!

By colors that will not fade,  
By sinuous sweep and by deathless glow,  
'Tis us that the flag has made!  
And it whispers today to each star-told state,  
"You must hold me high and must keep me great!"

(Copyright, 1917, by W. D. Nesbitt)

## "MADE IN AMERICA"

## What's the Use?

Why not pledge yourself to  
use "Made In America"  
goods exclusively?American artisans can  
equal the handiwork of any  
other country.There's no reason why  
prices should be higher and  
many reasons for keeping  
the money at home.The billions that go to Eu-  
rope will now keep all  
American workmen em-  
ployed. You do your part.

## Danbury Hatters' Fund.

John W. Sculley of New York, na-  
tional president of the United Hatters  
of North America, recently stated that  
the American Federation of Labor,  
which has raised funds to reimburse  
the defendants in the anti-boycott suit  
of D. E. Loewe & Co. against members  
of the Hatters' union, would not make  
a settlement with the plaintiffs by the  
payment of a cash amount. The fed-  
eration, Sculley said, would permit the  
attorneys for Loewe & Co. to proceed  
to foreclose the property under attach-  
ment and reimburse the defendants for  
their losses.

## Shares With Employees.

The Penn Tobacco company, Wilkes-  
barre, Pa., one of the largest independ-  
ent concerns in the country, has an-  
nounced a new method of profit shar-  
ing with its employees. Under an ar-  
rangement in effect Jan. 1 the employ-  
ees will receive a bonus proportionate  
to the cash dividends of the stockhold-  
ers. The dividends on \$1,000,000 cap-  
italization are now 4 per cent, payable  
quarterly. Under the Penn plan every  
time there is a dividend declared for  
the stockholders the percentage of div-  
idend will be applied to each employ-  
ee's salary.

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